Study on status of minorities

3424. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of media reports on a NCAER study on status of minorities;

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the conclusion of the said report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The reports in the media on the NCAER Study have come to the notice of government. The reports are based on tabulations obtained from one of the income surveys conducted by NCAER for the year 2004-05 and are based on the result of a multistage, stratified, random sample.

Corpus of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation

3425. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to enhance the Corpus of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation in view of the recommendations made in the Sachar Committee Report for the economic upliftment of minorities;

(b) whether public sector banks are being mandated to provide financial assistance to small time entrepreneurs, traders and artisans from the minority communities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) The authorized share capital of NMDFC has been raised from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 650 crore during 2004-05. The budgetary allocation for equity contribution by Central Government has been raised from Rs. 18.29 crores in 2006-07 to Rs. 70 crores during 2007-08.

(b) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India was requested to include "minority communities" under priority sector lending in RBI's Master Circular on Lending to Priority Sector dated 3.7.2006. RBI, *vide* its letter dated 24.4.2007, has intimated that they propose to include the following at item No. (iii) under paragraph No. 2.2 of their Master Circular on Lending to Priority Sector as follows:

"(iii) loans granted to specified minority communities under (a) to (i) above will be reported separately."

Instructions have been given to public sector banks to increase the flow of credit to the minority communities. Public Sector Banks have been advised to open more branches in districts with a substantial proportion of the minority communities and the flow of credit to minorities in these districts will be specially monitored.

Conversion of Kitchen Waste into Bio-Gas

3426. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has forwarded to Government proposal of a scheme through which kitchen waste can be converted into bio-gas;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto;

(c) by when and to what extent Government propose to implement this scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Plan for generating additional renewable energy

3427. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state: